



Submitting To Government

By: [Steve Shirley](#)

We are told in the [Bible](#) that no one is in power that God has not placed there ([Rom 13:1-2](#))([Jn 19:11](#))([Dan 2:21](#)). While God may not always agree with the way a leader or government rules, He allows them to be there and has given them authority. We are told to respect and submit to this authority and those who enforce it, even if we don't agree with it. Government also has the God given right to punish those who break the law ([Rom 13:4](#))([1 Pet 2:13-14](#)).

We have many examples in the Bible and through history of people submitting to governmental authority. Some examples are, Jesus tells us to pay taxes ([Mt 17:24-27](#))([Mt 22:18-21](#))([Mk 12:13-17](#))([Lk 20:20-26](#)). Jesus also submitted to the capital punishment of that time, death on a cross.

David knew that he would be made king, but he submitted to Saul and would do him no harm, even though Saul sought to kill him, because David realized Saul was God's anointed, placed in power by God ([1 Sam 24:6,10](#))([1 Sam 26:9-16](#))([2 Sam 1:14-16](#)).

Paul was imprisoned, beaten, and eventually killed by government authorities during the reign of the cruel and Christian hating Nero. Nero would have Christians rolled in tar and lit on fire to provide light for his parties or would have them wrapped in animal skins and fed to wild animals. These occurred because Paul and other Christians would not renounce their faith and because they put the laws of God ahead of the laws of man. Both Peter/Peter and John give examples of this:

([Acts 5:29](#)) Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.

([Acts 4:19-20](#)) But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. (20) For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.

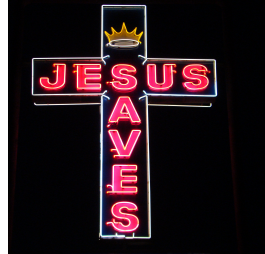
We should always remember that we are to submit to God first ([James 4:7,10](#))([1 Pet 5:6](#))([Rom 10:3](#))([Ps 81:15](#)). If the laws that governing authorities impose on us would cause us to sin or disobey God, then God's laws must always come before mans. We should make sure that we pray about this decision, because sometimes things that might appear as against God's laws aren't, but rather, they are something we just don't want to do.

In this country, we are blessed to have few restrictions against the practicing of our faith. Amendment 1 of the Constitution, known as the Bill of Rights, forbids the government to prohibit the practicing of a religion. However, many of the Biblical principles this country was founded on are being renounced and pushed out of our society. Rules are being made in schools and public institutions prohibiting people from praying or carrying a Bible. People are being told that crosses, nativity scenes, and the Ten Commandments cannot be displayed. Christians who s, Christians are being martyred by to renounce their faith. They meet in it laws, to keep from being killed or intries. These are examples of putting God

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For this is good and acceptable in the

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